

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph [0010] as follows:

**[0010]** In accordance with the invention, the new and improved process resides in the application to the exterior surface of post-harvest produce of an improved coating composition comprising an aqueous emulsion from about 0.25 to about 25 percent by weight polyvinylidene chloride copolymer, and from about 0.0001 to 10 percent surfactant, preferably ~~Triton-X~~ an octylphenol ethoxylate such as Triton™ X octylphenol ethoxylate surfactants commercially available from The Dow Chemical Company. Optional additional ingredients include antimicrobials, plasticizers, and antifoaming agents.

Please amend the paragraph [0016] as follows:

**[0016]** The emulsion is preferably aqueous and comprised by weight percent (w/w) from about 0.25% to about 25%, preferably 1% to 10% and more preferably 2% to 7% of polyvinylidene chloride copolymer suspended in water, and about 0.0001 to 10%, and more preferably from about 0.01% to 1% surfactant, ~~such as Triton-X45~~ e.g., an octylphenol ethoxylate such as Triton™ X-45 surfactant commercially available from The Dow Chemical Company.

Please amend the paragraph [0027] as follows:

**[0027]** The surfactant or wetting agent used enhances the ability of the composition to uniformly coat and adhere the coating to waxy

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surfaces generally found in post harvest produce. ~~Triton X-45~~ Triton™ X-45 octylphenol ethoxylate is more preferred but one can also use other octylphenol ethoxylates such as Triton™ X, 15, 35, 45, 100, 102, 114, 165, 305, 405, 505, L-80N, as well as Tergitol™ nonylphenol ethoxylate surfactants both of which are available from ~~the~~ The Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, Polysorbate known by the trade name Tween®-XXX where X designates a digit from 0 to 9 can also be used and are available from ICI Americas Inc. ~~America's~~ of Wilmington, Delaware. Dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate from the Cytec Corporation can also be used.

Please amend the paragraph [0028] as follows:

**[0028]** Optionally, the coating composition may also include one or more of the following: from about 0.05% to ~~%% antimicrobials~~ 0.1% by weight of an antimicrobial, such as triclosan and more preferably methylparaben, a fungicide from about 50 to 5000 parts per billion such as TBZ, SOPP, or Imazalil, and a plasticizer such as glycerin or polysorbate from about 0.1% to 20% to the weight of polyvinylidene chloride copolymer in the water based emulsion.

Please amend the paragraph [0029] as follows:

**[0029]** An antifoaming agent is recommended when the coating is being applied to post harvest produce commercially. ~~During preparation~~ Preparation and application of the coating without an antifoaming agent frequently ~~results~~ result in foaming and a consequent ~~delay~~ delay in the

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time of usefulness due to the elapse of time before which the foam dissipates and the coating is ready to use. An antifoaming agent eliminates the delay and is employed primarily as a matter of production expediency. In the present invention about 0.001 to 0.5% of an antifoaming agent can be used such as polydimethylsiloxane, known as FG-10 available from ~~from~~ the Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, ~~Mich~~ Michigan.

Please amend the paragraph [0030] as follows:

**[0030]** In the case of bananas and other fruits and vegetables having an initial preservation period between harvesting and initiation of the ripening process and a second preservation period between initiation of the ripening process and the time of consumption, the coating process of the invention may be employed for purposes of preservation in ~~it~~ either or both of the two periods.